

OPINION 1127

PLANARIA MONTENIGRINA MRAZEK, 1904
(PLATYHELMINTHES) GIVEN NOMENCLATURAL
PRECEDENCE OVER PHAGOCATA CORNUTA
SHISHKOV, 1903

RULING – (1) Under the plenary powers it is hereby ruled that the specific name *montenigrina* Mrázek, 1904, as published in the binomen *Planaria montenigrina*, is to be given nomenclatural precedence over the specific name *cornuta* Shishkov, as published in the binomen *Phagocata cornuta*, whenever those two names are regarded as synonyms.

(2) The following specific names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers and endorsements specified:

- (a) *montenigrina* Mrázek, 1904, as published in the binomen *Planaria montenigrina* (Name Number 2664), with an endorsement that it is to be given nomenclatural precedence over the specific name *cornuta* Shishkov, 1903, as published in the binomen *Phagocata cornuta* whenever those two names are regarded as synonyms;
- (b) *cornuta* Shishkov, 1903, as published in the binomen *Phagocata cornuta* (Name Number 2665), with an endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the specific name *montenigrina* Mrázek, 1904, as published in the binomen *Planaria montenigrina*, whenever those two names are regarded as synonyms.

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.) 2079

An application for the conservation of *Planaria montenigrina* Mrázek, 1904 (Platyhelminthes) was first received from Dr Roman Kenk (*National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C. 20560, USA*) on 5 February 1973. After correspondence with the applicant it was sent to the printer on 14 January 1974 and published on 31 July 1974 in *Bull. zool. Nom.*, vol. 31: 62–63. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the statutory serials. Support was received from Dr Ian R. Ball (*Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada*). No adverse comment was received.

The original application had been for the suppression of *Phagocata cornuta* Shishkov, 1903, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy. In February

1978 Dr Kenk was asked if he would accept the use of the "relative precedence" procedure in his application, and he agreed to do so.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 7 April 1978 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (1978)9 for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nom.*, vol. 31: 62. At the close of the voting period on 7 July 1978 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes — seventeen (17) received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Eisenmann, Mroczkowski, Vokes, Sabrosky, Cogger, Tortonese, Binder, Willink, Nye, Alvarado, Corliss, Starobogatov, Heppell, Welch, Bayer

Negative Votes — four (4): Brinck, Habe, Bernardi, Ride
No votes were returned by Dupuis and Kraus.

The following comments were returned by members of the Commission with their voting papers:

Brinck: "I cannot see that the 'outstanding' papers are so outstanding that they (and previous usage) should deprive *cornuta* of its rights."

Sabrosky: "I was disturbed at first by the apparent disregard by so many authors of the synonymy of *montenigrina* under *cornuta*. However, Dr Kenk has shown me that for many years the species were referred to the genus *Planaria*, and in this genus *cornuta* Shishkov was preoccupied two or three times over as a junior secondary homonym, hence authors naturally adopted *montenigrina*."

Habe: "Shishkov stated that *Planaria montenigrina* Mrázek was a synonym of *Phagocata cornuta* Shishkov. Therefore Shishkov's name should be preserved to science."

Heppell: "I vote for the proposal only in that I vote for the addition of *montenigrina* Mrázek to the Official List. If this does not give the name precedence over *cornuta* Shishkov and any other presumed synonyms then the status of names on the Official Lists must be reviewed as a matter of urgency to return to the Commission's original intention of ensuring protection for the listed names."

Bernardi: "Il me semble d'après le texte de Kenk que *cornuta* date de 1903 et *montenigrina* de 1904. Comme il s'agit d'êtres vivants sans importance économique je préfère appliquer simplement la loi de Priorité et utiliser *cornuta*."

Welch: "This is an appropriate application of the 'relative precedence' principle, for the original argument of synonymy seems weak. Some personal observations would have been welcome

supportive evidence for the applicant's literature review. Valkanov (1938) seems to be the last paper on the usage of *Phagocata cornuta*, though we are not told that this is so. The question arises in my mind whether an opponent of the application could give a list of recent usages of *Phagocata cornuta*? A comment on this point by the applicant would have been helpful."

Ride: "The name is not an unused name. The case is one of a well known junior subjective synonym that may be threatened by a less used senior name. Some taxonomic research should be done before the Commission acts."

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

cornuta, *Phagocata*, Shishkov, 1903, *Archs Zool. exp. gen.* (4), vol. 1: 401-409, pl. 16

montenigrina, *Planaria*, Mrázek, 1904, *Sitzungsber. k. böhm. Ges. Wiss., Math.-Nat. Kl.*, Jahrg. 1903 (33), 43pp., 2 pls.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on voting paper (78)9 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1127.

R.V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

6 November 1978